

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

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Ministers Cheer For Sex Education

WE must be forgiven for some degree of surprise in learning that the Methodist Conference of Great Britain has "condemned careless parenthood, endorsed birth control and advocates sex education from early childhood".

It all sounds progressive but in considering the condemnation of "careless parenthood", we are wondering how many of us would have been born if our parents had been less careless; not that it matters, perhaps, whether you and I had been suppressed into a non-condition of non-being; and again think of those who have loved us, those whom we have loved, and whom we still love and serve — that surely matters!

The wholesale endorsement of Sex education by so important a clerical organization, and the censorship of films which in any way relate themselves to Sex, arouses our curiosity to pursue the Sex problem if there is one in relationship to the Screen.

In its own peculiar way the Screen has unsexed Sex. Screen kissing, screen hugging, screen loving and the revelation publicly of human emotional impulses and reactions, which prior to the Screen's love urge were suppressed into inhibitions during our mothers' and fathers' time, have given audiences a Sex education which has glamourized scientific and biological facts.

Our titles in the silent picture days, revealed the thoughts, and in pantomime the habits of male and female living together calmly or violently, with the love impulse or Sex urge as the immortal spark illuminating the story or drama interest.

Our talking pictures gave us an intellectual flair, a bravado of expression in which the Screen audibly voiced what it heretofore conveyed silently.

To make people think is to educate them, to educate people is to humanize them and to humanize is to civilize. The Screen has, despite its censorship problems as varied as the colours of Joseph's Biblical coat, never been sold into slavery, it has remained free for the Entertainment of its devotees and indirectly their Sex education, for who can stop anyone from wondering why the censors have cut out a line, or a scene, and why they made these eliminations?

To return to the Methodist Conference of Great Britain, the Rev. Dr. John Coburn of Toronto speaks of its endorsement as, "Magnificent, the most progressive stand the Methodists have taken". He further adds, as reported in the Toronto Daily Star, "The Methodist Church of Great Britain can now take its place along with the most Christian thought of our time".

The Anglican bishops of Lambeth, the Federal Council of Churches of America and the United Church of Canada are reported to have passed similar resolutions.

Such a resolution in Great Britain leads your editor to join those who are inclined to believe that there will be NO WAR. When War is imminent there is a Nature impulse for the provision of a new generation to replace those shot or bombed into Eternity. With no War, something must be conceived to govern the present economic depression and unemployment situation which forces Government and Workers to provide for millions of children who are the children of those receiving dole or relief. This Something may be Birth Control and Sex Education by way of making Careless Parenthood more careful. Did you and I not read that Love laughs at locksmiths?

—Editor.

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259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

Famous Players Stage History Making Convention At Niagara Falls

EXHIBITORS GATHER WITH EXECUTIVES FROM CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

(Special from Niagara Falls by Merryl Lea)

THE first National Convention of Famous Players Canadian Corporation in 12 years, was held this Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the General Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ontario. All members of Famous Players and representatives of all branches of the Industry, were unanimous in their opinion that this National Convention was without a doubt the greatest motion picture meeting ever held in Canada.

Monday morning the Eastern Managers and Executives met the special section at the Canadian National Station bringing the contingent from the Pacific Coast and West, headed by Larry Bearg, Frank Gow, Eddie Zorn and Frank Kershaw. The boys were given an official reception by Mayor Carl D. Hanniwell and presented with the Keys of the City of Niagara Falls. A motorcycle escort accompanied the contingent to the hotel, where they were met by other officers of the company.

Following roll-call, and a friendly welcome from old pals of East and West, the first General Meeting was held in the Main Ballroom. Clarence Robson was in the Chair; the speakers, N. L. Nathanson (President), T. J. Bragg (Sec'y-Treas.), Ben Geldsaeler (Chief Booker), Morris Stein (Toronto Division), Larry Bearg (B.C. Chief), R. S. Roddick, F. H. Gow, Eddie Zorn (Winnipeg District Manager), R. W. Bolstead.

MR. NATHANSON, in his speech at the opening meeting, discussed the Bonus Plan which he introduced 6 years ago — the scheme under which the managers participate in the profits according to their increase in grosses. "Frequently," Mr. Nathanson said, "I am asked by the executives of other theatre circuits, whether the Bonus Plan as operated by Famous Players, is a successful one. My only answer to them, is that we are going to continue the plan, in fact have every hope of amplifying it." Mr. Nathanson spoke in a very optimistic vein. He expressed the opinion that television, tied in with the motion picture, would enhance the motion picture, as sound helped the films.

Monday evening the managers met in six groups, under the Chairmanship of their District Managers. Individual problems were discussed pertaining to each territory and each group was addressed by representatives from the Home Office, on a particular branch

of theatre operation. Ben Geldsaeler - Booking; R. W. Bolstad - Theatre Operation; Eddie Harris - Maintenance; Charles Dentilbeck - Projection; Jimmy Nairn - Advertising.

THE Regional Meetings continued through Tuesday and Wednesday. Wednesday evening Mr. Fitzgibbons (Vice-President and General Manager), made his first official appearance after an illness of five months at a dinner, in the Main Ballroom. He was welcomed back by Mr. Nathanson, and presented with a hand-tooled leather book, bearing an inscription of welcome and containing the signatures of all managers and executives of the company. As a tangible expression of their welcome, and with the wish for future health and happiness for both Mrs. Fitzgibbons and himself, a dozen sterling silver monogrammed service plates, were presented to Mr. Fitzgibbons.

The surprise of the evening was the presentation to Mr. Nathanson, of a scale model of the "Bluenose", by Larry Graburn of Halifax, N.S., and the 20" black slate Totem Pole which was presented by Dave Borland of Prince Rupert, B.C. This was symbolic of the 4,000 mile spread of Famous Players, from the Maritimes to the Coast. Mr. Nathanson then distributed the bonus checks to the managers, which amounted to approximately \$30,000.

THURSDAY morning, at the closing General Meeting, the gathering was addressed by representatives from the major companies. At noon, The Premier of Ontario, Mitchell F. Hepburn, arrived, and was guest at the Luncheon, at which the Managers and the members of the Home Office, the Empire-Universal, Regal, and Paramount Films Exchanges, were also present, having arrived by special train from Toronto that morning. Lucky number prizes were awarded, and the guests left for Victoria Park where a program of sports was arranged. The

golf-enthusiasts went off to Lookout Point, for a golf tournament.

THE crowning event of the F-P Convention, was the closing banquet. The Chairman on this occasion was Mr. T. J. Bragg. As host to what was probably the most impressive group of guests ever assembled at a Canadian motion picture meeting, Mr. Nathanson extended his welcome. Premier Hepburn stressed that his presence at this Convention was to honour his friend, John Fitzgibbons. Col. the Hon. George A. Drew, V.D., spoke of the place of the motion picture in national life. "The movie industry should voluntarily mirror more of the national life of Canada and her place within the Empire," he said. "Canada, like any other country cannot ignore the great potentialities of the movies in moulding public opinion; particularly in time of national stress." Colonel Drew asked that newsreels include more Canadian subjects, and news of British Empire interest. Major John Bassett, Editor of the Montreal Gazette, and member of the Board of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, spoke on the Empire angle. Mayor Carl D. Hanniwell expressed the hope that another Convention would follow this one at Niagara. Barney Balaban, President of Paramount Pictures, spoke on the theme of "Good Neighbours" as this was typified by Canada and the U.S.

In the closing message of the evening, Mr. Fitzgibbons paid tribute to the presence of the Premier of Ontario, as a compliment to the motion picture business, and expressed gratification for the co-operation of the present Government of Ontario. He also thanked Mr. O. J. Silverthorne for his many suggestions regarding Censorship and his constant help. Replying to Colonel Drew, Mr. Fitzgibbons said, "We will definitely make an effort to have a greater portion of Canadian subjects in our newsreels". He further stated, "We as a business, can think of no medium upon which we are more dependent for help than newspaper publicity, whether paid or otherwise". After expressing his gratitude for the privilege of working with Mr. Nathanson, Mr. Fitzgibbons closed with the friendly words, "And God Bless You All".

RAY PRESENTS



THERE is a March of Time edition which has been compiled from records taken from the Film Library Museum, and which follows briefly, but not consecutively, the development of screen stars and screen material.

The audience's reaction to its recent presentation was amusing and interesting for it revealed itself in applause for the male stars and directors, with only silent appreciation for feminine contributions. This leads me to wonder if our feminine stars' popularity is of Today only, and whether Posterity will only remember the MEN who were loved and admired for what they gave the people by way of Entertainment.

For instance, two totally different stars were shown, Mary Pickford and Theda Bara, neither received applause, but Valentino, Al Jolson, D. W. Griffith, Cecil de Mille all received good applause, along with several others whom I cannot, at this writing, remember.

There were pictures of Will Hays, of Joseph Schenck, of Nicholas Schenck, the latter's picture being the best I have ever seen of him, of Sidney R. Kent and Harry Warner, the audience receiving their presentation with marks of interest.

Personally, I think that film will do more good for the Screen by way of publicity than the Greater Movie Year of last year's bitter memory.

IN digesting what this March of Time had to offer in evolutionary progress by way of screen personalities and production values, I thought of the progress in theatre construction which would make another interesting March of Time edition. Some shots of the first nickleodeon or honkytonk leading to the important theatre construction and presentations, you remember the atmospheric prologues with their elaborate stage settings. Air conditioning, perfection of projection and Sound, chair luxury, hygienic conveniences and sanitation, beautiful utility in construction materials, fire protection, the list is too numerous to mention and the road too well dotted with milestones in the travel to the Theatre Beautiful. There is an idea here, we give it freely, charging only for advertising, which we always hope to get.

It occurs to me that with this theatre construction progress there has been a department, the most important, perhaps, which has remained throughout the years immovable, unchangeable, unalterable. Whereas the theatre has replaced its rough boards for a cement flooring carpeted with rugs from Hindustan, the buying and selling of films still has a smell of the boxing-glove about it, with plenty of sawdust sprinkled around to soak up the spilt blood of barter.

But now, after fifty years of film service, the Golden Era of the Screen's Jubilee ushers in, we hope, a new order of trading with the new Trade Practice Code.

A few weeks ago, Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, with exhibitor experience back of his executive position which should be a substantial help, said, "We approach a new era of selling".

Paramount could lead the way toward the "new era of selling". It's a big job and needs a big company and a big man as leader. Mr. Balaban became president of his company after it had grown to world-wide prominence. Its past is not his sinning and he has the opportunity and the ability, the latter which is most important to make the Golden Jubilee, the Gold Standard for exhibitors and producer-distributors.

IT is difficult to teach old dogs new tricks, therefore it will be difficult to make exhibitors and producer-distributors live up to the new Trade Practice Code verbatim, and to further its possibilities for even greater amenities.

Salesmen will still try to show their companies the biggest returns and companies will not be disposed to criticize the results, if the manner of obtaining such results is not strictly in accordance with the Trade Practice Code.

I believe that exhibitors will get a better chance at product, because producer-distributors have learned, I hope, that the choking off of the distribution of product which prevents its free distribution is financial suicide.

It is the strangulation of distribution which is the main cause back of Unemployment, Relief, National and International Disorders. The world can produce, but what a mess it makes of distribution.

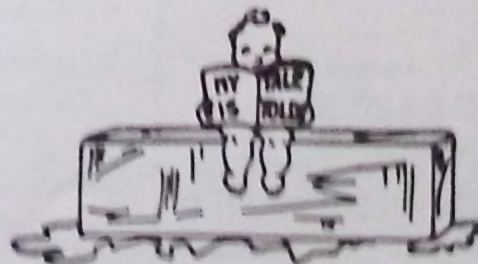
We have seen dollar values die, and during this period the death of the morale and actual death of those who have died with their wealth, or for lack of enough to live on.

FILM production has learned that there can be no money to finance production. Through depression, lost markets, lost picture attendance the Industry struck Bottom, in fact it sat on its bottom and discovered its head.

This touchdown gave it a brain-wave, it salvaged old pictures and discovered dollars in its find. It found that its only way out of litigation, taxation, confusion of interests and Government interference was to put its own house in order.

A divided house will continue to sap its vitality and exchequer, its traders must not destroy each other, for in such a battle how can they fight external attacks? We approve the Golden Jubilee of a great Industry which has raised the standard of living for all those actively engaged in this Industry and those who have enjoyed its Service.

I think our producer-distributors and exhibitors should celebrate the Golden Jubilee by handing each other some bouquets tied to contracts of mutual benefit, and that all should officiate at the ceremony of burying the hatchet, not in our Trade, but in the Enemies of Democracy.



Famous Players Name Coming Season "Record Royal Year"

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Entered as Second Class Matter

RAY LEWIS - - - Editor and Publisher

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REMODEL EMPRESS, LACHINE

Lachine, Que.—The Empress Theatre, situated at the corner of Notre Dame Street and Ninth Avenue, reopened recently, after being closed for several weeks, during complete renovation of the building.

Included in the renovation was a new marquee, brilliant with the twinkling of 1,100 electric light bulbs. The 800-seat house was given new seating equipment, featuring underseat lighting, and a new silver curtain.

Total cost of the redecoration project is set at \$15,000, and the Empress now ranks with the most modern and comfortable theatre of its size.

CHILDREN AID CHARITY

Renforth, N.B.—Gerald Hoyt (Empire-Universal Manager at Saint John) and family are summering at Renforth, N.B., a suburb of Saint John. Recently the Hoyt children took prominent parts in an entertainment and sale of candy which was held at Mr. Hoyt's residence. The proceeds were for charitable purposes. The young people are showing a commendable community spirit in philanthropy at such an early age. They are grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Golding.

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TORONTO MONTREAL

Western Indies Fight For Product As Exchanges Predict Boom Year

WILL LOWER ADMISSION PRICES IF NECESSARY

Winnipeg, Man. — Although the Independent moving picture theatre exhibitors have again had much to contend with in the matter of "squeezes" on the part of film boards of trade operating in Western centres, there is an optimistic feeling among all concerned. This has acted rather detrimentally against the Independent. With the big grain harvest in sight film exchanges see an increased demand for their product, and do not think it will be necessary to aggressively press sales on the Independents as in past years, and to try and rearrange films to meet the wishes of Independents. The latter strongly object to the new arrangement this year by which less and less of the highly advertised screen successes will be given them except under almost prohibitive clauses in their contracts. The Independents do not want to do all the advertising; they want the exchanges to help substantially. They also want a bigger share of the year's screen successes given to them if they also accept for their programmes certain of the under-dog films.

Theatres Being Renovated

All across the prairies theatres are being renovated, better equipped to run present day productions in anticipation that all classes of industry will be busy getting out the grain crop, especially railway men, elevator employees and garages, and implement men and store-keepers. All these classes are good and steady patrons of the theatres when they have the money. This year they will have it, and for weeks now railways and elevator owners have been spending millions of dollars in the West bringing cars and locomotives and buildings into condition to be better able to handle efficiently the grain crop.

Predict Big Year

Film exchanges in Winnipeg and Calgary are flooded with requests for available programmes, and the East has been requisitioned to help out as liberally as possible with stocks of new product. It is sure to be a big year for the theatre exhibitor and the film exchanges. Many more hundreds of people will be employed in the theatres of the West than has been the case for the last 10 years.

Independents Battle For Rights

The Independents are putting up a big battle to secure their rightful share, and the beginning of August will tell whether or not they will be successful or whether they will have to take the short end of the business as they did last year.

48-PAGE BOOKLET COMMEMORATES RE-OPENING

Regina, Sask.—A forty-eight page booklet commemorating the re-opening of the Capitol following its recent renovation was issued by Bill Novak, manager, and is now being distributed in the theatre lobby. It contains pictures, past and present of the Capitol; technical information pertaining to the manufacture of pictures; history of sound and silent pictures, and a wealth of inside film information calculated to instill even deeper interest in those who are already film fans. The booklet was written mostly by local newspapermen, and the expense of publishing it was borne by innumerable advertisers who bought space in it for congratulatory advertisements.

N. W. MASON AND BRIDE BACK FROM HONEYMOON

Saint John, N.B.—Members of the Motion Picture Industry were delighted to welcome N. W. Mason of New Glasgow and his bride, on their return from a honeymoon trip to the United States and Canadian Cities. It was regretted that Mr. and Mrs. Mason had not time to remain in Saint John long enough for a "party" to be staged for them. All his friends are proud of the fact that Mayor Mason of New Glasgow was one of the two theatre managers who had the honor of welcoming the King and Queen on the Royal Visit to New Glasgow.

JACK BUTLER VISITING

Saint John, N.B.—Jack Butler of the Imperial Theatre, Moncton, N.B., was a welcome visitor to Saint John recently.

Want People To Attend Two Shows In One Night

If necessary, prices will be reduced to meet new competition the Independents are facing. They claim it is better to have a pleased patronage at 5 and 10 cents and a shorter programme, than a smaller crowd and a long programme. What the Independents are aiming at is to so shorten and arrange their programmes at night so that people will be able to enjoy shows in two houses the same night.

**N. L. Nathanson Announces Continuation Of F-P's Managers' Profit Sharing Plan,
With \$5,000 Extra Bonus Contest For Period Of September To November**

Cagney-Raft Combo Clicks In Prison Drama

"Good Girls" Swell Summer Fare - - "Fiddle" Good

★ ★ ★

"EACH DAWN I DIE"

WB-FIRST NATIONAL

GEORGE RAFT, for years under the Paramount banner, has finally left that lot, and has been signed to a long-term contract with Warner Bros. This is his first effort for his new bosses, and he has been given a role right up his alley. Co-starred with him is Jimmy Cagney, who although one of Warners' top stars, has had his part underwritten to give Raft the spotlight. Cagney's performance, however, is one that will find favor with his host of fans, with a couple of scenes that pack a terrific punch, while Raft is a cinch to regain much of his past fame as a result of this picture.

Story is typical of the recent cycle of prison stories, with majority of the sympathy directed toward the prisoners, while the guards are pictured as cruel, heartless beasts, whose sole form of recreation is derived through the baiting and beating of their charges. Cagney plays a newspaper reporter framed on a manslaughter charge by the gangster adherents of a couple of big-shot politicians, because Cagney was revealing their underworld connections in his paper. In prison, Cagney becomes friends with gangster leader George Raft, who is paying one of his periodic visits to the pen. Cagney's paper is unable to get him freed, and when he is refused a pardon he becomes embittered. He assists Raft to escape, the latter agreeing to track down the men who had framed him. In a wild prison-break sequence, complete with National Guardsmen, tear gas, Mills bombs and machine guns, Raft, mortally wounded, proves Cagney's innocence.

In addition to the fine work of the two stars, there are several outstanding performances by minor members of the cast. These include Jane Bryan as Cagney's sweetheart, Emma Dunn as his mother, Alan Baxter and Joe Downing as "stool-pigeons", John Wray as a brutal guard, George Bancroft as the warden, and Maxie Rosenbloom, Stanley Ridges, and Edward Pawley as convicts.

The film contains many gripping sequences, and is almost 100% straight melodrama, with very little comedy relief. However, if your patrons like their film fare of the "red-blood" variety, this is what the doctor ordered.

Directed by William Keighley.

Running time—92 minutes.

★ ★ ★

"GOOD GIRLS GO TO PARIS"

COLUMBIA

MELVYN DOUGLAS and Joan Blondell, the original "Mr. and Mrs. Reardon" of "There's Always A Woman" series, are re-united by Columbia in a frothy romantic comedy that will prove a real tonic for summer box-office blues. Original title of the picture was "Good Girls Go To Paris, Too", but the appendage was dropped before release, possibly at the suggestion of the Hays Organization.

Comedy is of the "dizzy" variety at which Joan Blondell is past-mistress, even preceding Carole Lombard at this type of endeavour. Douglas plays his role fairly straight, in line with his character of a college professor, and an Englishman at that. A large slice of the comedy melon is handled by Walter Connolly, and Ursula Jeans and Alexander D'Arcy, with all three turning in stellar performances.

Joan Blondell is cast as a college-town waitress, whose one obsession in life is a desire to visit Paris, by "hook or by crook". She has made up her mind that the simplest way is to "hook" a rich man's son into proposing marriage, and then "crook" enough money out of his father to finance her Parisian expedition. After a disastrous experience in which her blackmail is foiled by a "fluttering" in her stomach, she is shown the error of her ways by Melvyn Douglas, who lends her the money to go back to her hometown. Instead she heads for New York, where she winds up at the home of the wealthy "Brand" family, into which Douglas is engaged to marry. She makes an instant hit with the tyrannical head of the family, Walter Connolly, and with his grandson, Alan Curtis. Douglas arrives to marry Joan Perry, Curtis' sister, and although Joan has been doing nothing but good since she's been there, he suspects she is up to her old tricks. However, she ends up by straightening out the whole family, and herself marrying Douglas with a honeymoon in Paris promised.

If the French Line has a branch in your town, you can probably arrange a good tie-up with them, including window space, etc.

Directed by Alexander Hall.

Running time—75 minutes.

★ ★

"SECOND FIDDLE"

20th CENTURY-FOX

ASIDE from Rudy Vallee, "Second Fiddle" is a very pleasant musical, containing several pretty good songs by Irving Berlin, some beautiful skating by Sonja Henie, including a brilliant duet with Toronto's Stewart Reburn, a good love story, and a clever burlesque of the search for an actress to play "Scarlett O'Hara".

In addition the film serves to introduce a new screen personality in Mary Healy, a comely singer of the Alice Faye type, and who looks a little like Marjorie Weaver. She sings the best of the Berlin songs, "I'm Sorry For Myself", in a manner that suggests great possibilities.

Story has Tyrone Power as a press agent employed by a studio which has been searching for several years for a girl to play the role of "Violet" in the best seller, "Girl of the North". Choice finally falls on Sonja Henie, a Minnesota school teacher, who is brought to Hollywood with her aunt, Edna May Oliver, by Power. Latter is placed in charge of Sonja's publicity campaign by Alan Dinehart, studio publicity chief. Power decides a phoney romance with singing star, Rudy Vallee, who also needs publicity, will be killing two birds with one stone. There are two catches to the set-up. Sonja doesn't know the romance is phoney, and falls for Vallee, and Vallee's jealous sweetheart, Mary Healy, knows it's phoney, but still doesn't like it. Third fly-in-the-ointment comes when Power falls in love with Sonja himself.

The skating scenes have been reduced in comparison with other Henie pictures, and there are no spectacular routines with large ensembles. The Tango routine with Stewart Reburn is delightful, but camera doesn't give one close view of Reburn's face. It's unfortunate, for he's a handsome lad, as well as a champion skater. Rumour has it, though, that he will be given a real chance in future pictures.

Tyrone Power and Sonja Henie both hit the bull's eye, with Power in particular showing improvement, but Rudy Vallee, who handles the bulk of the singing burden, is "phfft!" as far as this reviewer is concerned. Edna May Oliver is very good, and Lyle Talbot, Alan Dinehart, Minna Gombell and Spencer Charters top the rest.

Direction is by Sidney Lanfield.

Running time—87 minutes.

George J. Schaefer Elected President, Richard C. Patterson Chairman Of The Board,
Radio-Keith-Orpheum. Parent Company Of RKO Radio Pictures And Other Such As:

Will Award Numerous Prizes As Film Festival Moves To Cannes

HALF OF ENTRIES TO HAVE FIRST EUROPEAN SHOWING

Paris, France.—Half of the films competing in France's International Film Festival to be held at Cannes in September must have their original European showing on that occasion, according to a report to the Department of Commerce from Commercial Attache D. J. Reagan, Paris.

The sponsors of the festival hope, the report said, that this arrangement will give the competition an added attraction.

No Industry Representative On Jury

In order to be accepted for inclusion in the competition, the films must have been produced within the last twelve months. Each competing nation will have the privilege of nominating one member of the jury, who is not associated with the film industry. The film industry will nominate a delegate to act as a liaison officer but in no case shall he sit on the jury. The voting will be strictly in secret.

A first prize of the Cannes Festival will be awarded for the best film presented by each country. The winning films will carry the title "First Prize of the 1939 Cannes Festival for the United States", or for England, or for France, etc. In this manner all the nations may win a first prize.

The Louis Numiere First International Prize will be awarded to the best director of all countries.

Best Performance Awards

The first prizes will be awarded for the best actor and actress. There will also be a first prize awarded by the Society of Authors for the best scenario, a first prize for the best musical arrangement, and other prizes and medals for animated cartoons, scientific and other films.

The French Government has invited all nations to participate in the forthcoming International Film Festival, the number of films each country may enter to depend on its annual production volume.

REGINA EXHIBITORS EAST

Regina, Sask. — Otis Bowes, manager of the Grand theatre, Bill Novak, of Capitol, and Charlie Bahrynowski, of Metropolitan, left Regina by train on July 21 to attend the Famous Players convention at Niagara Falls, Ont. Following the convention Mr. Bowes will spend two weeks at the New York World's Fair.

Highlights and Lowdown On F-P Convention

EAST is East and West is West and here the twain have met. This refers to the Famous Players Canadian National Convention which was held at the General Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls, July 24th to 28th, closing with a banquet at which approximately four hundred guests were present. The guests, including the sales forces of producer-distributor companies, executives, office staffs and F-P exhibitors, with guests of honour from coast to coast in Canada and from New York to Hollywood sat down to feast and toast first The King, Canada and The Empire, the officers of Paramount and Famous Players Canadian, and Motion Pictures, not forgetting to remember that patronage made up of people of all races, classes and creeds who have made Motion Pictures one of the leading industries as well as Entertainment mediums in the world.

There are so many highlights to relate that we must reserve for next week's issue a full story, covering the serious and the lighter notes. Of the first, Premier Hepburn, The Hon. Col. George Drew, Major Bassett of the Montreal Gazette, Mr. N. L. Nathanson, Mr. J. J. Fitzgibbons presented the Canadian viewpoint.

THEATRE EMPLOYEES' PICNIC

Winnipeg, Man. — Employees of all the Winnipeg motion picture houses and theatres held a basket picnic at Winnipeg Beach, Sunday, July 16. There was a full afternoon of sports, and the committee, comprising Betty Watters, J. A. Moreau and Maurice Gillman, had worked hard to ensure the complete success of the outing and it was a very enjoyable affair.

In lighter key the team-work of Jake Miles and Simon Meretsky proved a classic. Simon is still wondering what Jake has by way of magnetic personality. It is necessary to quote Simon, for to edit him would be to cramp his style.

Simon relates that in one of the playtimes of the Convention Jake Miles and he visited a cabaret. "You should see those beautiful girls; what has Jake got that I haven't? They flocked around him like flies around a dead horse in summer."

To hear Simon tell you how to put over a British picture was worth the trip to the Convention. "Windsor," said Simon, "is not a good town for British pictures, but I knew that 'Pygmalions' was a good British Pictures and I wanted the people of Windsor to see it. So I hired a farmer to bring a truck of pigs to Windsor and to drive through the streets. I had a sign on that truck 'Pygmalions' is not pigs, it's a great picture. You should see the crowds. We played to over \$4,200 on the week". Even Bernard Shaw would enjoy this Meretskyism. Then the boys of the West, was it grand to see and to hear them.

Next week, more highlights and the lowdown. Watch for your copy.

Man Bites Dog!

A REFUGEE film distributor has told The Digest editor that he released one of his pictures to an Independent exhibitor at Tampa, Florida, after agreeing on a price with the exhibitor. The picture was sent C.O.D. to the Independent exhibitor, who informed the distributor that he thought the price was too high. The distributor told the exhibitor that since the price had been agreed on, the exhibitor must pay the price to release the film, but in the event the picture did not make money, the distributor would make an adjustment.

Working in co-operation with a friendly sheriff, it is alleged, the Independent exhibitor attached the film, paying nothing for its release, showed the film at his theatre and it took the distributor months and legal action to recover his film for which the exhibitor did not pay him a cent. Now, the refugee distributor, who is by the way, a gentleman, experienced in film business in his own country, wonders if this can happen to him again, and we wonder how the Independent exhibitor got away with such thievery and knavery, if these are the facts as related.

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Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Opens New 50,000 Watt Station At Watrous, Sask.

DEAR Ray Lewis:

Things are pretty quiet around town this week, with almost everybody in Niagara Falls. I met Frank Kershaw, newly appointed vice-president and general manager of Western Theatres Limited, Jake Miles' Famous Players' affiliated chain. Frank was previously Winnipeg district manager for F-P, being succeeded at that position by E. A. Zorn, formerly of Calgary. Frank Kershaw started in show business with his father, Raymond Kershaw, assisting in the management of the Wonderland Theatre, Winnipeg, way back in the days of the Great War. In 1925 the Kershaws took over the management of the Osborne Theatre, and five years later added the Tivoli to their chain. In June, 1936, Raymond Kershaw sold out his holdings to Famous Players, and he and Frank moved to British Columbia, where Frank was appointed manager of eight suburban houses for F-P. He returned to Winnipeg in April, 1937, as regional manager, keeping that post till his present change. Other changes in that territory involve Frank L. Willis, manager of the Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg, since 1929, and Don Gauld, supervisor of Western Theatres. Frank Willis has been appointed manager of the Orpheum Theatre, Fort William, succeeding H. Robson, brother of Clarence Robson, who has been forced to retire due to ill health. Don Gauld succeeds Frank Willis at the Metropolitan.

Gordon Lightstone of the Metro Toronto office is more enthusiastic about "Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever" than any other Metro picture this season. He says it's by far the best of the series, and that's saying plenty.

Dave Copeland, general sales manager for Columbia Pictures of Canada, flew to Winnipeg last week, where he was interviewed by a reporter on the Free Press. Dave is quoted as saying that the British Government's action in raising the amount of money which has to be spent on films if they are to be included in the British quota, has ruined all chances of Canada becoming a site for motion picture production on a large scale. He stated that the result of the move was to make the American companies produce in England on a large scale, while shutting down their Canadian and Australian production.

Ben Borlak, who has taken over the College Theatre, Brantford, from Bill Taylor, was in Toronto this week signing product deals.

**Yours
Truly**



"JAY L"

When Bill Kelly, Paramount's Calgary manager, returned from his company's convention early this month, he succeeded in getting a three column story in the Calgary Albertan giving a complete list of Paramount's program for the 1939-40 season. He also informed the press that Cecil B. DeMille was planning to personally make a trip to Calgary, Winnipeg and Banff, after the return of his two advance guards, Frank Calvin and W. H. Pine.

The "Mr. Sutherland" who is building a new theatre at Mitchell, Ont., is H. J. Sutherland, who operates a chain of theatres in Ontario, including St. Mary's (his headquarters), Goderich, Seaforth and Clinton.

Olga Brownell, the statuesque blonde of the Warner Toronto office, is away on holidays, and half the film men in Toronto are trying to find out whither away.

Ray Tubman, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Ottawa, Ont., has been offered the Herridge "Third Party" nomination for Ottawa East in the coming Federal election. It is doubtful, though, if Ray will accept the offer.

Opera House, Brockville, Ont.
Gregory Theatre, Hamilton, Ont.
Classic Theatre, Toronto, Ont.
Opera House, Orillia, Ont.

There must be a reason
why they are installing
the new No. 400 line
theatre chairs!

CANADIAN THEATRE
CHAIR CO.

277 Victoria St. - Toronto, Can.

CHARLES A. BOCHNER, Mgr.

Charley Querrie, manager of the Palace Theatre, Toronto, celebrated his 60th birthday at the F-P convention on Tuesday. Charley is one of the most popular theatre managers and sporting figures in the Dominion, and the sports pages of the Toronto papers carried big stories on his anniversary. Charley was a prominent figure in his day in professional lacrosse and hockey circles, and still retains a great interest in both sports. Charley played professional lacrosse himself, and became manager of the Mutual Street Arena in 1912, retaining that position until 1921, when he left to become manager of the Palace Theatre. At Niagara Falls Charley was presented with a wrist watch from the F-P Toronto managers, and with a pair of binoculars from the Danforth Business Men's Association. Incidentally, in the Globe and Mail, Tuesday morning, Vern De Geer, sports editor of the paper, devoted his whole column to Charley, and in his eulogy the following amusing paragraph is included: "Today Three-Star Querrie is basking in semi-retirement at the General Brock Hotel at Niagara Falls, one of 400 delegates to a national convention of Canadian theatre managers, film bookers, executives and Simon Meretsky. If Querrie can out-talk Simon during the four-day conference that opened Monday afternoon, then it will be another crowning achievement in the hectic life of the Markham Kid." The "Three-Star" tag, of course, refers to Charley's selection of the "Three Stars" of the home games of the Toronto Maple Leaf hockey team.

Abe Rappaport, Hollywood Theatre, Campbellford, was in town this week, accompanied by Mrs. Rappaport.

Al McKeag, the Warner Toronto booker, is out of the hospital, and showing great improvement since his recent operation. In the meantime Alf Piggins, the chief booker at the Toronto office, is chaffing at the bit, waiting for McKeag to return so he can go on his holidays.

Sam Fardella, Grand Theatre, Fergus, a Toronto visitor.

And that's all there is, there isn't any more.

Yours truly,

"Jay L."

Rivoli, N.Y. Premiere Of Samuel Goldwyn's "They Shall Have Music", Starring Jascha Heifetz, Attracts Notables Of Screen And Society Including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Shooting The Stars

Camera work on "A Chump At Oxford", first film re-uniting Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy under the Hal Roach banner, is completed; film is directed by Alfred Goulding, and will be released by United Artists . . . Kay Kyser, leader of the most popular orchestra in America to-day, has been signed with his band for a picture by RKO Radio; tentatively entitled "That's Right You're Wrong", it will be directed by David Butler . . . Lorna Gray has been assigned to the feminine lead in "The Man They Could Not Hang", being produced at Columbia with Boris Karloff starred . . . Edward Arnold has been signed by 20th Century-Fox for an important role in "Johnny Apollo", an underworld story which will have Tyrone Power as one of the stars . . . Ann Rutherford is the third member of the cast of M-G-M's "These Glamour Girls", to go into the cast of "Dancing Co-Ed"; Lana Turner and Richard Carlson have the leading roles . . . Warner Bros. have engaged Gladys George for a featured role in "The Roaring Twenties", the Mark Hellinger story in which James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart and Priscilla

Lane are starring . . . Brian Aherne has been signed for the starring role opposite Carole Lombard in A. J. Cronin's "Vigil in the Night"; Anne Shirley will have a featured role in the RKO Radio picture which George Stevens will direct . . . Rochelle Hudson has been selected as the feminine lead opposite Fred Stone in Columbia's "Konga"; Sam Nelson will direct . . . Louis Hayward's performance in "The Man in the Iron Mask" has won for him a new contract with Edward Small, with a considerable increase in salary . . . Jeanette MacDonald's first picture under her new contract with M-G-M, will be Sigmund Romberg's "Lover Come Back To Me" ("The New Moon"), co-starring Nelson Eddy . . . Fred MacMurray has been borrowed from Paramount for one of the three starring parts in 20th Century-Fox's "Little Old New York"; Alice Faye and Richard Greene will share honors with MacMurray . . . Grant Mitchell, Sidney Blackmer and James Stephenson have been selected to play the chief roles in Warner Bros. two-reel short subject in Technicolor, "The Monroe Doctrine".

Stop! Look! Listen!

Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's Inc., announced on his arrival in New York from the Coast, that the gross M-G-M business for the past 12 months, is exceeding the preceding 12 month period by \$2,000,000 — this despite the loss of the Italian and German, Austrian and Czechoslovakian markets . . . More headaches in store with the rumour that the Department of Justice will open 2 new suits against the Industry in California. One action concerns relations between motion picture producers and labor leaders, the other an anti-trust action . . . The Dionne Quintuplets' new two-reeler, "Five Times Five", opened at Radio City Music Hall on the 27th. Alexander Woolcott appears in the picture as a friend of the Quints. Woolcott also wrote the script and is the commentator. Cocktail party was given for Doctor Dafoe at the Pathe offices, to celebrate the opening . . . Teddy Carr, joint Managing Director of United Artists in England, has announced that "Wuthering Heights" and "Four Feathers" have been booked by both the Gaumont-British and Odeon Circuits — at terms which are the highest ever paid for a picture in Great Britain. "Four Feathers" recently completed a record-breaking eight-week pre-release run at the Odeon Theatre, London . . . Leon J. Bamberger, RKO Radio Sales Promotion Manager, will speak at the Annual Convention of the Schine Circuit theatre managers at Gloversville, N.Y. on August 3rd . . . Russell Birdwell, has been signed by RKO Radio to handle a special advance publicity campaign on Herbert Wilcox's "Nurse Edith Cavell", which stars Anna Neagle . . . Hint Samuel Goldwyn - Frank Capra - Howard Hughes - Robert Riskin producing-distributing organization likely if Goldwyn can get out of UA via Delaware court suit . . . 20th Century-Fox drops "Mr. Moto" series as Peter Lorre secures contract release . . . "Each Dawn I Die", plus Eddie Duchin and Band, registers record-breaking \$52,000 initial week, Strand, N.Y.; record under current policy was previously held by "Angels With Dirty Faces" plus Ted Lewis' Band . . . Report deal underway for Oscar Deutsch (Odeon Theatres) to take over nine big Paramount key houses in England . . . M-G-M's "Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever" running ahead of others of the series in early engagements . . . J. E. Otterson, former president of Paramount and of Erpi, heads newly-formed television company, Radio Wire Television Corp. of America, with capital of \$6,000,000 . . . Battle between Associated Actors and Artists of America and the American Federation of Actors threatens to spread into general labor war affecting all theatrical unionism.

Trans-Canada Showings

TORONTO

IMPERIAL

"Good Girls Go To Paris" (Columbia), starring Melvyn Douglas and Joan Blondell, and "A Woman Is The Judge" (Columbia), with Otto Kruger and Frieda Inescourt.

LOEW'S

"Maisie" (M-G-M), starring Ann Southern and Robert Young, and "Stronger Than Desire" (M-G-M), with Walter Pidgeon and Virginia Bruce.

OAKWOOD

"The Frog" (British), starring Gordon Harker, and "Bridal Suite" (M-G-M), starring Robert Young and Annabella.

UPTOWN

2nd week. "Second Fiddle" (20th Century-Fox), starring Sonja Henie and Tyrone Power.

MONTREAL

MONTREAL

"Stronger Than Desire" (M-G-M), with Walter Pidgeon and Virginia Bruce, and "The Cowboy Quarterback" (Warners), with Bert Wheeler.

LOEW'S

"Goodbye, Mr. Chips" (M-G-M), starring Robert Donat, with Greer Garson.

ORPHEUM

"Smiling Along" (20th Century-Fox), starring Gracie Fields, and "Pardon Our Nerve" (20th Century-Fox), with Lynn Bari.

PRINCESS

"South Riding" (London Films), starring Ralph Richardson, and "Dishonour Bright" (British), starring Tom Walls.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"Second Fiddle" (20th Century-Fox), starring Sonja Henie and Tyrone Power.

EMPIRE

"The Cowboy and the Lady" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Gary Cooper and Merle Oberon, and "Crashing Hollywood" (RKO Radio), with Lee Tracy.

REGENT

"Pygmalion" (M-G-M), starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hillier, and "Mr. Moto's Last Warning" (20th Century-Fox), with Peter Lorre.

STRAND

"The Kid From Kokomo" (Warners), starring Wayne Morris, Pat O'Brien and Joan Blondell, and "Sweepstakes Winner" (Warners), with Marie Wilson.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"Clouds Over Europe" (Columbia), starring Laurence Olivier and Ralph Richardson.

GAIETY

"Love Affair" (RKO Radio), starring Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer, and "Four Girls in White" (M-G-M), with Florence Rice.

GARRICK

"Star of Midnight" (RKO Radio re-issue), starring William Powell and Ginger Rogers.

LYCEUM

"The Gracie Allen Murder Case" (Paramount), starring Gracie Allen and Warren William, and "King of Chinatown" (Paramount), with Akim Tamiroff.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Second Fiddle" (20th Century-Fox), starring Sonja Henie and Tyrone Power.

ISIS

"Flying Irishman" (RKO Radio), starring Doug Corrigan, and "Ambush" (Paramount), with Gladys Swarthout and Lloyd Nolan.

PALACE

"Man of Conquest" (Republic), starring Richard Dix, and "Bridal Suite" (M-G-M), starring Robert Young and Annabella.

VANCOUVER

BEACON

"Torchy Runs For Mayor" (Warners), with Glenda Farrell and Barton MacLane, and "S.O.S. Tidal Wave" (Republic), with Ralph Byrd. Also stage show.

DUNBAR

"Paris Honeymoon" (Paramount), starring Bing Crosby and Francisca Gaal, and "Persons in Hiding" (Paramount), with Lloyd Nolan.

HOLLYWOOD

"Valley of the Giants" (Warners), starring Wayne Morris and Claire Trevor, and "Next Time I Marry" (RKO Radio), with Lucille Ball.

NOVA

"Made For Each Other" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart, and "Secret Service of the Air" (Warners), with Ronald Reagan.